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THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY.

Consisting of the

Life and Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth,

The

Adventures of Paul and the Apostles,

And

THE MOST INTERESTING EVENTS IN THE PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY, FROM THE
EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY JOHN S. C. ABBOTT.

The above indicates the design and scope of the volume. I cannot give a better idea of the work, than to quote from the author's preface.

"The author of this volume has for many years, at intervals, been engaged in its preparation. It has long seemed to him very desirable, that a brief, comprehensive, and readable narration of the origin of Christianity, and of its struggles and triumphs, should be prepared, adapted to the masses of the people. The writer is not aware that there is any popular history of the extraordinary events involved in the progress of Christianity which can lure the attention of men, even of Christians, whose minds are engrossed by the agitations of busy life. And yet there is no theme more full of sublime, exciting and instructive interest. All the heroism which the annals of chivalry record, pale into insignificance in the presence of the heroism with which the battles of the Cross have been fought, and with which Christians, in devotion to the interests of humanity, have met, undaunted, the most terrible doom. It has not been the object of the writer to urge any new views, or to discuss controverted questions of church, polity or theology. THIS IS A HISTORY OF FACTS, not a philosophical or theological discussion of the principles which these facts may involve. No one, however, can read this narrative without the conviction that the religion of Jesus, notwithstanding the occasional perversions of human depravity or credulity, has remained essentially one and the same during all the centuries. We need no additional revelations. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God."

In presenting such a work to the public, I do it in confidence, and with the full assurance that it will fill a place never before occupied, and that an appreciative people will welcome it to their homes and read it at their firesides, and that it will also find its way into the classic libraries of the country.

The writer is admirably fitted for the task. Having written the histories of Russia, Prussia, Austria Italy and Spain, he has of necessity traversed the scenes of religious conflict; and then his pen invest every subject upon which he writes, with that peculiar charm which not only interests, but instruct the reader. It is safe to say that no man in this country is better informed upon this important subject.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

The work contains 501 pages, octavo; illustrated by Six full-page steel engravings, and two maps. The steel plates consists of a fine Portrait of the Author, a likeness of Jesus, after Delaroche; the Last Supper, with panel work and appropriate selections from the words of Jesus; two group plates, one entitled "Reformers of the 16th Century," consisting of portraits of Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wycliffe, John Knox and Philip Melancthon; the other entitled "Eminent Clergy of the 18th Century," consisting of portraits of John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, Robert Hall, Thomas Chalmers and Archbishop Paley; also a picture representing the "Vision of the Cross. One map represents PALESTINE; the other, the TRAVELS OF ST. PAUL.

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The History of Christianity, by John S. C. Abbott.

It is unnecessary for a volume of this character especially from the pen of such an eminent historian, to present a long array of testimonials.—I have no fear of contradiction when I say that it is the BEST popular history of Christianity ever published, in fact it is the ONLY one adapted to "*the People*."

The following extract of a letter to the author from a distinguished Clergyman of Massachusetts echoes the sentiment of Ministers of the Gospel of all denominations—who have had the opportunity of reading the work.

I have this evening finished the reading of your "History of Christianity;"—which I have perused with great interest and care.

The portion which would naturally be most interesting to me, is the Life of Jesus. I have traced your narrative, with the greatest pleasure, as I have been over the same ground in my private studies last winter. I have been particularly interested in your clear exhibition of times, places and distances, which I regard as indispensable means of understanding the history. There are other elements in your delineation very much to my taste.

The events of the first century, and the eighteen succeeding ones, gives as clear and concise a view of the great features of the conflicts of the Gospel as can well be condensed in the same compass.

I think you are to be congratulated in the accomplishment of this work. It must have been a very interesting and profitable employment to have furnished yourself for its preparation. No one, I am sure, could write such a Life of our Savior, without receiving as much benefit himself as it must confer upon others.

The last twelve pages of the book I think grand, elevating, sublime, and I think will stand among the finest passages from your pen.

[From Hon. Apoleon T. Cheney to the Author.]

"I have perused the History of Christianity, with great interest and satisfaction. I consider it as one of your best, and think that it will prove, in the great roll of time, the most useful to mankind of all your able works. It presents, in fresh and attractive narrative, the life on earth of our Savior.

[From the Methodist Home Journal.]

"Abbott's History of Christianity issued by B. B. Russell of Boston, is a remarkable, fresh, readably and instructive work. Of all the histories of the Church, not one was really popular. Mosheim, Hagenback, Millman, though highly valuable as critical and learned works, are so heavy, and dry, that the people never want them. Abbott does for the church what he had done for Napoleon and Frederick—popularizes its story. His history is a miniature picture gallery where all the *Chefs de œuvre* look down upon us from the walls. He gives not a dry narration of events, but a series of warm and glowing pictures of the chief men and things, a moving panorama of the life of the church. Like Beecher's Life of Christ. The work is concrete, vivacious, pictorial, adapted to catch the eye and enlist the interest of the common reader. As a popular contribution to ecclesiastical history it has no equal. Indeed it is really the finest essay in that line, and as such will not fail to find readers."

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"The spirit of the book is excellent, and no one can rise from its perusal without a profounder sense of the truth and worth of Christianity. It is written in the author's usually pleasing style, and adorned and enriched with several pictorial illustrations and maps."

[From the Home Guardian.]

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[From Rev. V. M. Simons, in Zion's Herald]

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Mixing secular and religious, sacred and profane together, surveying the whole compass of the initiation and progress of Christianity from its inception in Bethelhem to its present proud, commanding eminence in all civilizations, and written, withal, in that graceful, popular, and yet thoroughly correct style so well suited to the mass of readers, and for which Mr. Abbott is so justly celebrated, this history meets an evident want of the time, and becomes an invaluable addition to our current Christian literature. The two chapters on St. Bartholomew's Massacre, and on Mohammed, are worth the price of the book.

[From the United Presbyterian Review.]

"The author has peculiar qualifications for a work of this kind. His power of seizing and presenting the salient points of history are well known from his former works. His style is excellent. He has avoided controversy, and is, in the main, very fair and accurate in his judgment of persons and events. We are confident that he has filled a place by this volume that has not been occupied by any other. This History will be read in hundreds of families in which larger church histories would find no place, or would be laid aside as uninteresting and wearying in the effort to peruse them. The volume is richly illustrated, and very neatly bound. It is sold only by canvassing agents. These will no doubt meet with a ready reception all over the country."

[From the Lutheran Observer.]

"The public are well aware of the attractive style of all Mr. Abbott's histories and biographies, and this volume combines not only all the attractions of his popular style, but those of a subject the most interesting and permanently important that can engage the pen of any author. To compress the history of nineteen centuries of Christianity into one volume is a work of the greatest difficulty. Yet Mr. Abbott has succeeded in this difficult achievement. He has given a connected narrative throughout, quite full during the life of Christ, and the first centuries, and gradually omitting less important details, and presenting only the leading events and characters in the progress of Christianity down to the present time.

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[From "Pastor and People."]

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